



From 1/9/12

Council Members (X In attendance)

- X Lois Bruinooge - Deputy Executive Director, The Last Green Valley
- X Jan Collins - CT Horse Council
Robert Dickinson - CT Bicycle Alliance
- X Tracy Gionfriddo - Northeast Utilities – acting Secretary
- X David Gumbart – Town of Killingworth; The Nature Conservancy; CT Forest & Park Assoc.
- X Joe Hickey - CT Forest & Park Assoc.
- X Mark Paquette (chair) - Executive Director WINCOG
- X Laurie Giannotti (DEEP Liaison) - Ex-Officio Member
- X Katherine Rattan (DOT Non-Motorized Transportation Coordinator) - Ex-Officio Member
Lisa Fernandez - Farmington Canal Rail to Trail Association
William D. O’Neill - East Coast Greenway Alliance

Guests:

Tenia Seay, Josh Legar

Chairman’s Report:

Mark Paquette called the meeting to order at 9:39 AM. Minutes from the November 2011 meeting were accepted.

Discussion regarding ECONN meeting on ¼ with good turnout. Reviewed trails from Simsbury to RI border, with connectors in eastern CT and around state, and transportation enhancement funding. Information has been sent out to towns. Enhancement act deadlines in February.

Strategic development:

Greenways help center is included in statute, but not funded. Consider re-institution of funds as one of the strategies (moved by T. Gionfriddo and 2nd by L. Bruinooge, accepted). Inventory and map not being done, but could be done as part of the help center work. Tracy asked about funding for help to reinstate the greenway help center.

Transportation:

Kate will submit her notes separately.

Legislative Report:

Bike/Ped committee and CMAC funding and American Great Outdoors implementation plan were discussed.



Old Business:

Merritt Parkway Trail Study: town letters went out, Stamford group meeting to move it forward.

Restoration of license plate funds: continue to work on wording.

New Business/Updates:

- 1) Water trails (Lois): E. Conn, Quinebaug and Willimantic Rivers, large effort to log. Expect to hear in June. Guidebook to Willimantic River can be found on web.
- 2) Windsor Trail (Bob): base is laid and there will be a bridge by then end of the week. IT is a multi-use trail and includes horse use.
- 3) Nature Conservancy in Salem: public access, may create trail to connect to Rte. 11 area
- 4) CT Bike/Walk is looking for a new executive director.
- 5) Northeast Utilities (Tracy): in the process of getting access agreement done. Agreement with DEEP is expiring soon.
- 6) Mark P will ask for a meeting with DEEP Commissioner to update him on the Council's activities and initiatives.

Next Meeting:

March 12th 9:30 AM to 11 at DOT. Meeting adjourned at 11AM.